

**Outline for Primary Zone Study Process**  
**March 10, 2010**

**INTRODUCTION**

**A) Agency Mission** - The mission of the Delta Protection Commission (DPC) is to guide the protection of the California Delta's unique agricultural values, natural quality, cultural viability, economic vitality, and recreational opportunity through:

- Protection, maintenance, and enhancement and restoration of the overall quality of the Delta environment including agriculture, wildlife habitat, and recreational activities;
- Findings, goals, policies and recommendations in the areas of land use, agriculture, natural resources, recreation and access (including marine patrol, boater education and safety programs), water, levees, utilities and infrastructure; and
- Assurance of orderly, balanced conservation and development of Delta land resources.

**B) Agency Vision** - The vision of DPC is a region in which the essential land uses and unique natural qualities flourish in self-sustaining harmony.

**C) Purpose and Description of Services** - In November 2009, the California Legislature passed and Governor Schwarzenegger signed a comprehensive water package that included four policy bills and an \$11.14 billion bond measure. Senate Bill X7-1 (SB 1) by Senators Simitian and Steinberg establishes the framework to achieve the co-equal goals of providing a more reliable water supply to California and restoring and enhancing the Delta ecosystem. Specifically, this Bill creates the Delta Stewardship Council, ensures that the Department of Fish and Game and the State Water Resources Control Board identify the water supply needs of the Delta estuary, establishes the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy, restructures the DPC, and appropriates funding from Proposition 84 for the Two-Gates Fish Protection Demonstration Program.

The DPC operates under the regulatory authority of the 1992 Delta Protection Act, which established the boundaries of the Primary Zone of the Delta. SB 1 directs the newly reconstituted DPC to prepare and submit to the Legislature, on or before July 1, 2010, recommendations regarding the potential expansion of or change to the Primary Zone or the Delta. The DPC is directed by SB 1 to consider recommendations on the status of all of the following areas: Rio Vista, Isleton, Bethel Island, Brannan-Andrus Island, Cosumnes/Mokelumne floodway, and the San Joaquin/South Delta lowlands.

The DPC needs consultant assistance in the development of recommendations regarding the potential expansion of or change to the Primary Zone or the Delta.

**D) Scope of Work** – The services to be provided by the Consultant shall include, but not be limited to, the following (subject to review and may be tailored as circumstances dictate):

1. Assist the DPC in developing recommendations regarding the potential expansion of or change to the Primary Zone or the Delta, consistent with the requirements of Senate Bill 1, Section 29773.5. Prepare an appropriate constraints study that would provide a basis from which recommendations can be developed by the DPC.
2. Define the areas to be evaluated for potential expansion of or change to the Primary Zone of the Delta including those areas identified in Section 29773.5 and other areas that may merit further study. Develop a methodology and process for establishing the areas to be included in the study.
3. Establish the criteria that would be used to evaluate the resource constraints and land use characteristics of individual areas. These may include, but would not be limited to: flood zone designations, soil and drainage characteristics, habitat types, agricultural quality and vitality, levee designation (project/non-project, subventions, Proposition 84/IE funded), existing land use, planned growth, availability of infrastructure, planned infrastructure, seismic conditions, presence of cultural and historical resources, public health hazards, recreational uses, applicable local and regional plans and policies, housing supply (including agriculture related), economic conditions (trends and consequences), and community/stakeholder interests.
4. Develop a process by which these characteristics and constraints would be ranked, categorized and evaluated in order to determine the suitability and feasibility of modifying the boundary of the Primary Zone or the Delta for individual areas.
5. Develop a summary of the ranking results that would provide input for consideration in the development of recommendations by the DPC, including consideration of information gathered during preparation of the study and consultation with affected stakeholders.
6. Outline a process that would insure the engagement of key stakeholders in the process to identify important issues from their perspectives. At a minimum these stakeholders would include members of the DPC, relative state and federal agencies, Delta cities and counties, special districts, regional planning agencies, private interests, non-profits, landowners and other stakeholders identified throughout the process.

7. Prepare a work plan that would assure the involvement of agencies, and organizations and individuals that have technical advice to offer the DPC to ensure the recommendations reflect accurate data regarding conditions within the Delta.
8. Identify the technical needs to develop the recommendations and how the DPC can obtain the needed technical support to develop the recommendations.
9. Provide a strategy for developing the recommendations within the timeframe mandated by SB 1.
10. Recommend, based on the experience of the firm or its principal project team members, methods and means to involve the public, in an effective and efficient manner, in the development of the recommendations.
11. Coordinate the work and attend meetings as required with DPC staff and others who may be assisting in developing the recommendations for the DPC.